

Town of Tiverton



Economic Development Commission

343 Highland Road, Tiverton Rhode Island 02878

MEETING MINUTES

ORGANIZATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE AND TIME: APRIL 8, 2010 @ 6:00PM

LOCATION: TIVERTON COMMUNITY CENTER
346 JUDSON STREET
TIVERTON, RI 02878

President Len Schmidt called the regular meeting of the Tiverton Economic Development Commission to order at 6:00 P.M. Other members present were: Vice President Scott Humphrey, Ed D'Atello and Steve Gilbert. Peter Bowen was not present. Jay Massa was present in the place of ex-officio member Jody Sullivan, Interim Executive Director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce.

Item # 1 Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2010

Mr. Humphrey made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Mr. D'Atello seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. D'Atello and Mr. Gilbert voted in favor. Mr. Humphrey made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. D'Atello seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. D'Atello and Mr. Gilbert voted in favor.

Item #2 Budget, FY 2011

- **Update and proposal for action**

The EDC discussed the funds that they had committed for the upcoming spring meeting. The remainder of this year's budgeted funds would be utilized for the brochure printing and stationery. Mr. D'Atello stated that the brochure would be ready for printing once the web address is received. A final draft of the brochure was circulated for review. Mr. Humphrey made editing suggestions, such as synching the color of the brochure with the color of the website.

Mr. Humphrey made a motion to print 1,000 brochures, with no direct mailing at this time. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. D'Atello and Mr. Gilbert voted in favor.

Mr. Schmidt noted that the Budget Committee had voted to reduce the EDC's total budget for FY 2011 to \$1,000 (supplies only). He added that the Budget Committee proposed to cut the Planner position to part-time and eliminate membership in the Newport County Chamber of Commerce and the League of Cities and Towns. He noted that the Chamber was paying for the EDC's website startup and would be facilitating an \$80,000 planning

grant for the Industrial Park. Mr. Humphrey raised the possibility of obtaining private donations to fill the gap. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gilbert made a motion to take no action until more information is available. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. D'Atello and Mr. Gilbert voted in favor.

Item #3 Spring Meeting – Tiverton businesses and residents

- **Town Council Meeting Schedule**
- **Implementation of Plans for Meeting**

Mr. Schmidt stated that a meeting date should be selected and the EDC should file a Town Council agenda request to notify them of the plans. Mr. Schmidt noted that Town Administrator James Goncalo had asked him to make a presentation to the Town Council regarding EDC activities. The EDC members decided to set a target date of May 27 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Mr. Humphrey stated that he would confirm the date with the venue (Family Ties Restaurant). Mr. Schmidt stated that he would try to confirm the keynote speaker, Executive Director of the RIEDC Keith Stokes.

A draft questionnaire was circulated by Mr. Humphrey, which would be sent to the website designer for inclusion on the website. The questionnaire would also be available at the spring meeting.

Item #4 Toll Proposal, Sakonnet River Bridge

- **Proposed Resolution – Len Schmidt**

Mr. Schmidt distributed a draft resolution opposing placing tolls on the new Sakonnet River Bridge. Mr. Schmidt made a motion to accept the draft resolution. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. D'Atello and Mr. Gilbert voted in favor.

Item #5 Surplus Town Properties – Len Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt stated that Town Councilor Jay Lambert had asked for the EDC's help regarding the determination for disposal of surplus town properties. Mr. Schmidt had spoken with Laura Epke, Chair of the Municipal Buildings Feasibility Advisory Committee, who had suggested that he should attend the Committee's next meeting.

Item #6 RIEDC - Potential for state involvement to address issues such as upgrades to the Four Corners area, Stone Bridge – Len Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt stated that the Four Corners business group would hold their monthly meeting on April 22. Topics of discussion would include the potential for crosswalks, sidewalks and public restrooms. Mr. Schmidt noted that the Town had requested a sign for Four Corners to be placed on Route 24. He stated that crosswalks had already been requested, and that State help would be required for the installation of sidewalks. Businesses would be encouraged to provide their own restrooms.

Item #7 Energy Element of Rhode Island Sustainable Energy Cooperative Project

- **Response to Request for Support**
- **EBEC Initiative**

Mr. Schmidt noted that there would be a meeting held on April 21 to discuss the Portsmouth wind turbine. He also noted that the EBEC (East Bay Energy Consortium) had approached the Town Council regarding the potential to place turbines in the Tiverton Industrial Park.

Mr. Schmidt stated that he had confirmed with the RIEDC that Jim Sweeney was no longer affiliated with the “RI Sustainable Energy Cooperative” or Mr. Felise. The EDC determined that no action regarding the RISEC proposal was appropriate at this time.

Item #8 Plans for May EDC Meeting

The next regular meeting would be held on May 13. A workshop to plan the spring event (tentatively scheduled for May 27) was scheduled for April 15.

Item #9 Adjournment

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. D'Atello voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M...

(Italicized words represent corrections made on the approved date.)

Submitted by: Kate Michaud Approval Date: May 13, 2010

Attachment (1): Sakonnet River Bridge Toll Resolution

TOWN OF TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
343 HIGHLAND ROAD

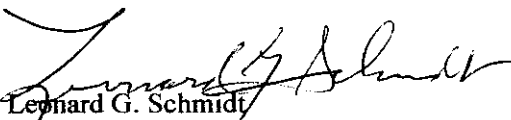
RESOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
APRIL 8, 2009

- WHEREAS,* The Rhode Island budget as submitted by Governor Donald L. Carcieri proposes to transfer the Sakonnet River Bridge to Rhode Island Bridge Authority without General Assembly approval thereby enabling the establishment of tolls for transiting said bridge, and
- WHEREAS,* The charging of tolls for passage across the Sakonnet River Bridge will deter commercial and private activity between businesses and residents of Tiverton and of Aquidneck Island, as well as, that of private and commercial vehicles from outside of Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS,* The placement of tolls on said bridge at present or in the future will deter and isolate Tiverton from interaction with all of Rhode Island for any and all commercial, recreational or private reasons; and
- WHEREAS,* The burden of tolls in combination with the existing disadvantage of non competitive tax laws with the adjacent Commonwealth of Massachusetts will combine to diminish, further reduce and offset the potential and viability of existing businesses and those that are not yet established; and
- WHEREAS,* The Tiverton Town Council has requested the enactment of enabling legislation prohibiting such transfer of the Sakonnet River Bridge to the Rhode Island Bridge and Turnpike Authority and to prevent a toll from being charged on the said bridge

RESOLVED: That we, the Economic Development Commission of the Town of Tiverton support and encourage enactment of the enabling legislation requested by the Tiverton Town Council

AND do hereby request that Senator Walter S. Felag, Jr., Louis P. Dipalma, Representative John G. Edwards and Representative John J. Loughlin II, and all other members of the General Assembly take the action necessary to file and support the passage of said legislation.

Adopted as a resolution this 8th day of April 2010.


Leonard G. Schmidt
President